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SUBJECT: VIETNAM AND PALESTINE

Refs: A. HANOI 429; B. HANOI 325

11. (SBU) In response to news articles quoting Hamas Foreign Minister Mahmud al-Zahar saying he plans to visit China and "tour other countries in East Asia," Poloff contacted Nguyen Diep Ha, desk officer in the Foreign Ministry's West Asia and Africa Department. Ha said there has been no change in Vietnam's Palestine policy (refs A and B) and "no plans have been made or are being contemplated" for hosting the Hamas delegation in Vietnam. When pressed, Ha said Vietnam "probably would not want to host such a high-level visit from Palestine at this time."

MARINE